

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed contemporaneously herewith. Applicants request reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the amendments and remarks described herein. Claims 13, 20-22, and 24-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 13, 20-22, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 13 and 20 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

Claims 13, 20-22, and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,789,320 to Andricacos et al. (hereinafter "Andricacos") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,376,018 to Kohl (hereinafter "Kohl") and Brenner, *Electrodeposition of Alloys*, Academic Press, New York, 1963, vol. I, pp. 611, 612, and 617; vol. II, pp. 542-546 (hereinafter "Brenner"). For the following reasons, applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Independent Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the amount of platinum deposited by weight is greater than the amount of the second metal deposited by weight. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification in Example 1, page 13, line 10, and Example 2, page 13, line 21, of the specification.

As noted in the Office Action, Andricacos purportedly discloses a process for depositing a noble metal alloy onto a surface of a microelectronic workpiece, including pure noble metals (platinum included), alloys of noble metals with noble or non-noble metals, and bi- or multi-layers. The Office Action admits that Andricacos does not specifically disclose the use of an acidic plating bath or give ranges of appropriate acidic pH values. The Office Action relies upon Kohl, which purportedly discloses plating baths that include platinum and non-noble metals such as copper, nickel, cobalt, chromium, tin, and lead in an acidic bath. In that regard, the Office

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Action points to Column 5, line 14, of Kohl, which describes that nickel may be deposited from a nickel sulfamate bath with a pH of 0.2-4. The Office Action concludes that Kohl teaches the deposition of alloys which are predominately nickel in an acidic bath that overlaps with the pH range recited in Claim 13.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Andricacos et al. and Kohl fail to teach or suggest a method for depositing platinum and the second metal onto the surface of the microelectronic workpiece, the amount of platinum deposited by weight being greater than the amount of the second metal deposited by weight, as recited in amended Claim 13. Accordingly, applicants submit that the subject matter of independent Claim 13 and the claims that depend therefrom are nonobvious over the applied references. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If Examiner Leader has any questions regarding the above, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below so that any outstanding issues can be resolved in a timely and efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

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